

House Republican Press Release

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**Stone, Tymniak Support Real Campaign Finance Reforms Oppose
Using \$17 Million in Taxpayer Funds for Political Campaign Ads**



*Say Money Should Go to Build Up Underfunded
Teacher's Pension System, School Aid*

State Rep. Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133, and Jack Stone, R-134, today supported eliminating special interest money from Connecticut politics, but opposed spending at least \$17 million a year from the state General Fund to pay for more political campaign ads.

Reps. Stone and Tymniak also opposed provisions in the campaign finance legislation allowing “tremendous loopholes big enough to deliver an armored car of special interest money to political campaigns.”

Stone and Tymniak voted for many amendments to close the loopholes, correct flaws in the legislation and eliminate taxpayer financing of political campaigns so taxpayer do not have to bear the brunt. However, all amendments were defeated along party lines.

Rep. Tymniak said, “Many people in my district have registered their opinion against using state funds to pay for more political ads and more campaign mail. Instead, we should use the money to build up the chronically underfunded state teacher pension system or increase aid to public schools.”

Rep. Stone said, “If this comes out of the General Fund, that means other programs will be cut or taxes will be raised to come up with at least \$17 million a year for grants to politicians.”

The two representatives said a glaring problem is that legislative leaders still will be permitted to form multiple political action committees to funnel special interest money to candidates for the state House and Senate. They noted that the legislation does not take effect until 2008 legislative campaigns and 2010 statewide races. Even unopposed candidates will receive state campaign grants, and there will be minimal accountability on how the money can be spent, Stone and Tymniak said.

They said they hope flaws and loopholes can be corrected in the 2006 legislative session.